Visits of foreign film makers

1578. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to liberalise issue of visas to the foreign film makers and their teams; and

(b) if so, the foreign exchange earning from such visits for shooting of feature and documentary films during the years 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The Government has recently liberalised the guidelines for shooting of foreign feature films and co-productions in India to make them more facilitative. Under the revised guidelines, proposals to shoot foreign feature films and co-productions in India will be cleared within a maximum of three weeks as against the twelve weeks taken earlier. For specified areas like border belts, J&K and the North-East, however, more time may be required. Procedures regarding scrutiny of scripts, attachment of liaison officer with the shooting team and preview of film before its release anywhere in the world have been rationalized.

(b) No datas are maintained in this regard by the Government.

Foreign Channels in India

1579. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign channels operating in the country with the source of funding declared by each one of them;

(b) how many foreign channels have violated Government's norms; and

(c) the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) involved in each of these foreign channels and the details of the Income Tax paid by these channels during the last financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.